

AP U.S. History – Period 5: Unit – 5 - 1844-1877 Practice Test

Question 1:

“Meanwhile, Britain had extorted by the Anglo-Chinese Opium War major trade concessions in East Asia, including a lease on Hong Kong. American (chiefly New England) shipowners and merchants worried that they would now be excluded from the lucrative China trade they had cultivated since 1784. To forestall any such development, Webster’s close associate, Caleb Cushing . . . negotiated in 1844 the Treaty of Wanghai, by which the Chinese Empire accorded the United States most-favored-nation status in trade.”

-Historian Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, 2007

The patterns described in the excerpt most directly foreshadowed which of the following developments?

- A. the growing support for American imperialism in the 1890s
- B. the emergence of labor unions in the 1860s
- C. the resurgence of anti-immigrant sentiment in the 1920s
- D. the waning interest in protecting civil rights for African Americans in the 1870s

Question 2:

“That any attempts by congress to interfere with the institution of slavery in any of the territories of the United States would create just grounds of alarm in many of the States of the union; and that such interference is unnecessary, inexpedient, and in violation of good faith; since, when any such territory applies for admission in to the union as a state, the people thereof alone have the right, and should be left free and unrestrained, to decide such question for themselves.”

-Source: State Senator Broderick, *Journal of the California Legislature*, 1850

The excerpt is best understood as a response to which of the following historical developments?

- A. the rise of debates in the federal government over the extension of slavery
- B. the adoption of an antislavery platform by the Democratic Party
- C. the emergence of the Free Soil Party as a major contender in the election of 1848
- D. the change in population in California following the discovery of gold

Question 3:

“In the long run, the most significant division of American opinion exacerbated by the war in Mexico was that between the North and South. The doctrine of America’s manifest destiny had not sprung originally from a slave power conspiracy but from policies with nationwide appeal and deep cultural roots. When James Knox Polk came into office, territorial expansion did not constitute a sectional issue but a party one. . . . Polk did not share Calhoun’s disposition to view all matters in terms of their impact on the slavery question. Nevertheless, as his term went by, his administration increasingly appeared narrowly southern in outlook. The president’s imperialist objectives came to prompt a bitter sectional dispute over slavery’s extension, bearing out Calhoun’s foreboding.”

-Source: Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, 2007

Which of the following political shifts resulted most directly from the trends described in the excerpt?

- A. the supremacy of the Democratic Party in American politics
- B. the shift toward slave states outnumbering free states
- C. the rise of third parties like the Know-Nothing Party
- D. the realignment of political parties based on regional lines

Question 4:

“I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood. I had, as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed, it might be done.”

-Source: Last written words before Brown’s execution, 1859

A historian would most likely use this passage to illustrate which of the following?

- A. the response of pro-slavery politicians to the Dred Scott decision
- B. the growing willingness of abolitionists to resort to violence
- C. the influence of the Second Great Awakening on the abolitionist movement
- D. the massive carnage of the Battle of Antietam

Question 5:

Read the excerpt and answer the question below.

“If we do not exclude slavery from the territories, it will exclude us . . . Where slave labor strikes its roots deep into the soil of a territory, free labor will not grow, but perish. We are all personally interested in this question, not indirectly and remotely, as in a mere political abstraction, but directly, pecuniarily and selfishly.”

-Speech given by Oliver P. Morton, 1860

The speech excerpted most directly reflected a growing belief after 1850 that:

- A. northern workers were “wage slaves.”
- B. territorial expansion would ruin the United States.
- C. slavery was incompatible with free labor.
- D. slave labor was detrimental to agriculture.

Question 6:

“I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*. I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* -- I do not expect the house to *fall* -- but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided. It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other.

“Either the *opponents* of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its *advocates* will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in *all* the States, *old* as well as *new* -- *North* as well as *South*. . . . Let any one who doubts, carefully contemplate that now almost complete legal combination -- piece of *machinery* so to speak -- compounded of the Nebraska doctrine, and the Dred Scott decision.”

-Source: Abraham Lincoln, “House Divided” speech, 1858

The ideas expressed in the excerpt contributed most directly to which of the following?

- A. the expansion of the Whig party
- B. the emergence of sectional political parties
- C. the founding of the abolitionist movement
- D. the drafting of the Lecompton Constitution

Question 7:



-Source: Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, "A Family Quarrel," Library of Congress, between 1861 and 1870

The image was created most directly in response to which of the following?

- A. the election of 1860, which gave the Whig candidate the presidency
- B. the acquisition of territory after victory in the Mexican-American War
- C. the secession of the southern states from the United States
- D. the Supreme Court decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*

Question 8:

Which senator alienated his antislavery constituents with his Seventh of March speech delivered in support of the Compromise of 1850?

- A. Daniel Webster
- B. William H. Seward
- C. Stephen Douglas
- D. John C. Calhoun

Question 9:

In what year was Texas annexed into the United States?

- A. 1836
- B. 1845
- C. 1849
- D. 1855

Question 10:

“Yesterday, November the 7th, will long be a memorable day in Charleston. The tea has been thrown overboard; the revolution of 1860 has been initiated. Intense though quiet excitement prevails throughout the community. The Government officials, as our columns will show, have resigned. . . . The Federal officers who have resigned their places are expected to address the meeting to assemble as soon as the Legislature shall have acted. Charleston is not behind the State, and will play her part in the grand drama now before us, as becomes her intelligence, her stake and her civilization. On every lip is the stern cry ‘vive la liberta!’”

-Source: *The Charleston Mercury*, November 8, 1860

Which of the following groups would have been most likely to support the editor’s views expressed in this excerpt?

- A. Federalists
- B. southern Democrats
- C. Abolitionists
- D. northern Republicans

Question 11:

Read the excerpt and answer the following question.

“The Court’s decision in the *Civil Rights Cases* (1883), however, not only fully validated the blatant ploys to disenfranchise black Americans and relegate them to some shadow existence between freedom and slavery, but also threw open the door to a more codified approach to removing African-Americans first from the voting rolls and then from mainstream civil life.”

-Source: Lawrence Goldstone, historian, *Inherently Unequal*, 2011

The developments described in the excerpt best illustrate which of the following?

- A. the loss of African American rights after Reconstruction
- B. the discrimination that African immigrants faced in the South
- C. the introduction of laws that protected African Americans from discrimination
- D. the rise of an African American Civil Rights Movement in the United States

Question 12:

Which president cooperated with the Reconstruction policies of the Radical Republicans?

- A. Ulysses S. Grant
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Andrew Johnson
- D. Rutherford B. Hayes

Question 13:

After which battle did Lincoln issue the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation?

- A. Fredricksburg
- B. Gettysburg
- C. Antietam
- D. Shiloh

Question 14:

The Ku Klux Klan targeted all of the following groups with its intimidation tactics EXCEPT

- A. Freedmen
- B. Democrats
- C. Republicans
- D. Carpetbaggers

Question 15:

The overall Union war strategy was outlined in Gen. Winfield Scott's _____ Plan.

- A. Copperhead
- B. Cobra
- C. Boa
- D. Anaconda

Question 16:



-Source: N. Flayderman & Co. (via Cowan's Auctions), [Wikimedia Commons](#), 1865

Which of the following changes to the United States during the Civil War most directly contributed to the development depicted in the image?

- A. the introduction of a law that required military service from free black people
- B. the decision by the Confederate states to arm the people they enslaved
- C. the order from President Lincoln that freed enslaved people in the South
- D. the creation of an Underground Railroad that relocated formerly enslaved people

Question 17:

All of the following were western trails taken by American pioneers EXCEPT

- A. California
- B. Texas
- C. Mormon
- D. Oregon

Question 18:

“I think the time has come now when we should attempt the boldest moves, and my experience is that they are easier of execution than more timid ones, because the enemy is disconcerted by them— as, for instance, my recent campaign.”

“I attach more importance to the deep incisions into the enemy’s country, because this war differs from European wars in this particular— we are not only fighting hostile armies, but hostile people; and must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war, as well as their organized armies. . . . The truth is, the whole army is burning with insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble for her fate, but she deserves all that seems in store for her.”

-Source: General William T. Sherman, in a telegram to General Halleck, 1864

Which of the following was a key difference between the United States’ strategy and the Confederacy’s strategy during the Civil War?

- A. The Union deployed many troops to Richmond, Virginia to capture Jefferson Davis and end the war quickly, while the South used small raids of the Northern cities to sow home front opposition to the war.
- B. The Union used guerrilla warfare tactics to fight against the much larger Confederate armies, while the Confederacy attempted to cut off trade to the North by sending troops to encircle the Union.
- C. The Union defended their borders from southern invasion to maintain its territorial holdings, while the Confederacy aimed to win by destroying major cities in the North.
- D. The Union destroyed the South’s ability to wage war by destroying railroads, cities, and cutting off trade, while the Confederacy aimed to win by not losing territory to the North.

Question 19:

“It is idle to say that a citizen shall have the right to life, yet to deny him the right to labor, whereby alone he can live. It is a mockery to say that a citizen may have a right to live, and yet deny him the right to make a contract to secure the privilege and the rewards of labor. It is worse than mockery to say that men may be clothed by the national authority with the character of citizens, yet may be stripped by State authority of the means by which citizens may exist. . . .

“It is barbarous, inhuman, infamous, to turn over four million liberated slaves, always loyal to the government, to the fury of their rebel masters, who deny them the benefit of all laws for the protection of their civil rights.”

-Source: Representative William Lawrence, *Congressional Globe*, 1866

The excerpt most strongly suggests that in 1866 which of the following was correct?

- A.** The US Army promised the extension of citizenship to any man who served in the military against the Confederacy.
- B.** The US government kept black men in service rather than grant them total personal freedom.
- C.** There was a lack of clarity about African American citizenship status after the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.
- D.** The Emancipation Proclamation defined a path to citizenship for free African American men.

Answer Key:

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. B
11. A
12. A
13. C
14. B
15. D
16. C
17. B
18. D
19. C